



# Learning Event



## LOADING / UNLOADING

### HAZARD

#### Physical

(Moving object - vehicle)

### Loss of Control - Vehicle

### CONSEQUENCES

**Actual:** No harm to persons

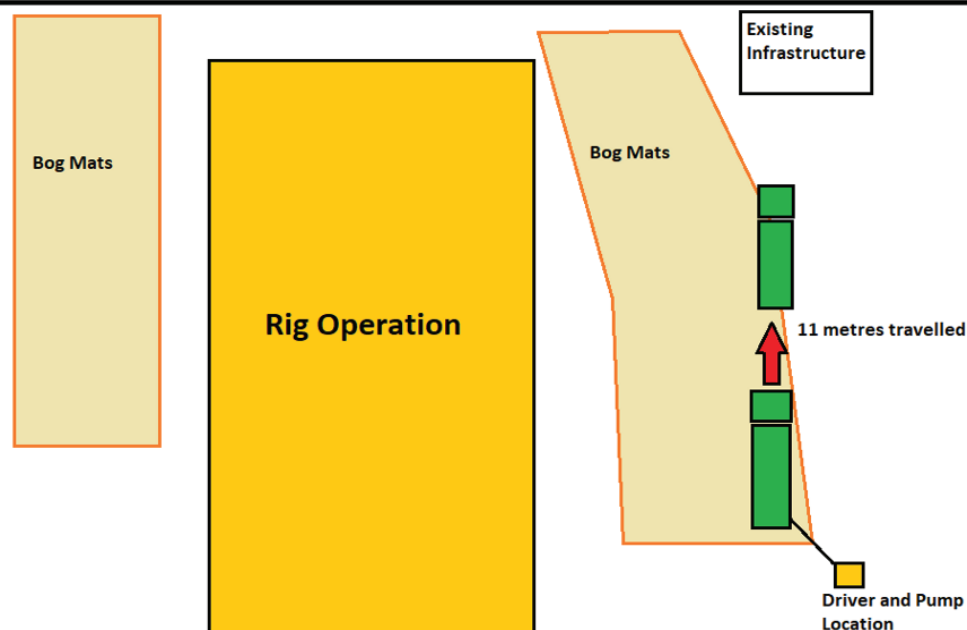
**Potential:** This could have caused a fatality

## WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO PREVENT UNCONTROLLED MOVEMENT OF PARKED HEAVY VEHICLES?

### What Happened?

The driver of a water truck was outside the vehicle and in the process of loading water into their trailer on a rig site, when the water truck unexpectedly rolled forward approximately 11 metres.

During this uncontrolled movement, the truck damaged attached pumping equipment before its momentum was halted by ground conditions.



### Why did it Happen?

- **A suspected mechanical failure of the park brake system occurred.** Video footage from the vehicle cab confirmed that the driver had applied the park brake. The park brake system was inspected after the incident and all components were found to be in correct working order. The most likely cause was an air leak in the truck's park brake system.
- **The relevant procedure requires the truck's wheels to be chocked, but wheel chocks were not in use at the time of the incident.**

### What did they Learn?

- The water truck was not securely immobilised through the use of wheel chocks while the driver and others were working in proximity to the vehicle. The operation relied solely on the truck's park brake as the only means of preventing movement. This single-point reliance created a critical vulnerability — there was no secondary control to arrest the vehicle's movement.
- Review, strengthen and consistently apply existing controls for this type of work to ensure their adequacy for the system to "fail safe" in the event of an error or component failure:
  - Update verification of competence process for truck drivers
  - Update procedure to strengthen supervision by site personnel of water truck loading at rig sites.
  - Develop and roll out a toolbox for truck drivers on uncontrolled vehicle movements to reinforce hazard awareness and procedural controls.

### IOGP Life-Saving Rules

- ✓ Understand and use safety critical equipment and procedures which apply to the task
- ✓ Obtain authorisation before: disabling or overriding safety equipment; deviating from procedures; crossing a barrier
- ✓ Be positioned to avoid moving vehicles



### Ask yourself or your Crew:

- What controls do you have in place to ensure heavy vehicles are immobilised to prevent any unexpected/uncontrolled movement? Do you rely solely on drivers remembering to apply the vehicle's parking brake?
- When did you and your work mates last have a toolbox conversation about the potential dangers of complacency and normalising risks when conducting repetitive routine tasks?

### Further information:



SCAN ME

Workplace Health & Safety Queensland (WHSQ) – Safety immobilising vehicles campaign



SCAN ME

National Road Safety Partnership Program (NRSP) – Heavy Vehicles & Preventing Rollaway



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